Bliss V. 7.
1.

A SCHEME

For the Better

RELIEF and EMPLOYMENT

OF THE

POOR;

Humbly ſubmitted to the Conſideration of

HIS MAJESTY

AND THE

Two Houſes of Parliament.

By a Member of Parliament.

LONDON:

Printed in the Year 1764.

SCHEME

For the Better

Regulation

OF THE

POOR;

Humbly submitted to the consideration of

HIS MAJESTY

AND THE

Two Houses of Parliament.

By a Member of Parliament.

LONDON:

Printed in the Year 1764.

Walter Bowman

PREFACE.

IT is a Truth too well known and too fatally experienced, that the Poor of this Kingdom are in general greatly diſtreſſed, reduced to many Hardſhips, and frequently drove to ſeek their Livelihood in the publick Streets and Highways, not in total Idleneſs, but by Means the moſt unjuſtifiable, the moſt fatal to themſelves, and the moſt pernicious to Civil Society.

This is the more to be lamented, as we have many Laws wiſely calculated to prevent thoſe Grievances, and as enormous Sums are annually raiſed for their Relief and Employment.

Whether theſe Misfortunes ariſe from any Defect in the Laws, or in the Execution of them, there ſeems no Neceſſity to determine, but moſt probably from both.

As the Evil appears to be univerſal, the Remedy ought to be equally ſo.

The Efforts which have been made to that End, within the laſt Century, by Men in the higheſt Stations, of the greateſt Piety, Virtue and Ability, have proved unſucceſsful.

This has diſcouraged many from attempting ſo great and arduous a Taſk, but perhaps there never was a Time ſo favourable for it, as the preſent, when his Majeſty, by the glorious Succeſs of his Arms, and the happy Concluſion of the War, has reſtored Peace and Tranquility to this Country, and added to it an immenſe Extent of Territory; and when from the late wiſe Regu-

lations which have been made for extending our Trade and Commerce, by ſupplying ſo many Millions of his new Subjects with our Manufactures, Prudence and good Policy ſeem to call for every Hand that is fit for Labour.

Theſe Conſiderations have produced the Scheme here publiſhed; ſeveral Parts of which have been collected from the Labours of thoſe Gentlemen who have employed their Thoughts and their Pens upon this Subject, by one who wiſhes ardently for it, but is not ſanguine enough to think that his Zeal or Endeavours in a Work big with ſo many Difficulties, can afford it the leaſt Proſpect of Succeſs. His only Hope is, that what he communicates by this Means may induce thoſe to whom it is addreſſed, to take it under their Patronage, and graft ſome Scheme upon it, which may be crowned with the deſired Effect.

Should his Majeſty, the Father and Guardian of his People, who has ſhewed on ſo many Occaſions how much he feels for their Diſtreſſes, and has endeared himſelf to them by ſo many Inſtances of his Goodneſs, be pleaſed to ſhow his Royal Countenance to ſuch an Undertaking, and ſhould the Two Houſes of Parliament, animated by ſo great an Example, unite their Endeavours to accompliſh it; there can be no doubt but their eminent and diſtinguiſhed Abilities, will ſurmount all Difficulties; and that their Names will by that Means be tranſmitted with Honour, Gratitude and Reſpect to the lateſt Poſterity.

HEADS

HEADS

PROPOSED

For an Act of Parliament for the better Government, Maintenance and Employment of the Poor in the ſeveral Counties in England *and* Wales, *and for repealing the preſent Laws relating thereto, and for reducing the whole into one Act.*

THAT every County ſhall be divided into convenient Diſtricts, each Diſtrict to comprehend a Number of Pariſhes and extraparochial Places, which lie contiguous to each other.

OBSERVATION.

The preſent Parochial Diſtricts are generally found too ſmall for the Purpoſes of employing the Poor, and putting them under ſuch Government and Regulation as may be neceſſary.

Counties will, it is apprehended, be found too large for that Purpoſe.

Hundreds when they lie contiguous and entire may be convenient, but as ſome of them may be too large and others too ſmall to be formed into one Diſtrict, and as they frequently run irregularly into each other, and afford no preciſe Boundary or Juriſdiction with reſpect to the Poor, it is apprehended that Diſtricts comprehending a certain Number of Pariſhes, Townſhips, or extraparochial Places, which maintain their own Poor, and lie contiguous, though they may run into different Hundreds, will be a more convenient Diviſion for this Purpoſe.

That the Names of every Pariſh or extraparochial Place in each Diſtrict ſhall be deſcribed in the Act, and each Diſtrict in every County, diſtinguiſhed by the Names of the Firſt, Second, Third, Fourth, *&c.*

OBSERVATION.

It is apprehended it will be much better to have theſe Diſtricts deſcribed by the Legiſlature in the Act, than referred to any Perſons to be appointed in the Country for that Purpoſe, in order to preſerve a Conſiſtency in the whole Scheme, and as they will beſt judge whether larger or ſmaller Diſtricts will produce the greateſt national Convenience; it may deſerve their Conſideration whether the Diſtricts may not

not be ſo formed as to have the Cities, Corporations and great Towns near the Center, where their Situations will admit of it, as the Poor may be better employed in the Manufactures of thoſe Towns, if their Work-houſes are in or near them; but as the Legiſlature cannot judge where it will be proper to draw the Line for theſe Diſtricts, without a Plan of the ſeveral Pariſhes in each County, ſome Obſervations are ſubmitted upon that Matter at the end of this Treatiſe.

That the Juſtices of Peace, Rectors and Vicars reſiding within each Diſtrict, and all Freeholders of Thirty Pounds a Year, and Perſons who occupy Lands or Tenements of One hundred Pounds *per Annum*, ſituate within the Diſtrict, to be incorporated by the Name of Guardians of the Poor, within their reſpective Dictricts, to have a Seal, perpetual Succeſſion, and all neceſſary Privileges as a Body Politick or Corporate.

That the Guardians of each Diſtrict ſhall meet at a Day, Hour and Place to be ſpecified, in order to proceed to the Execution of the Act.

That they ſhall firſt chooſe a Chairman or Precedent by Majority of Voices.

That they ſhall then proceed to chooſe by Ballot out of the Guardians, ſome of the moſt Able and Diſcreet, to be Directors, the Number of Directors for each Diſtrict to be

ſpecified in the Act; every Juſtice of Peace within each Diſtrict to be a Director.

The Directors ſhall chooſe by Ballot a Treaſurer, Clerk, Governor, Matron and ſuch other Officers, from time to time, as ſhall be found neceſſary for carrying the Act into Execution, and to allow them proper Salaries out of the Money to be raiſed and collected under the Authority of the Act.

The Directors ſo to be elected to continue for Two Years, and then new ones to be elected in the ſame Manner every Year afterwards.

Any Seven or more of the Directors to be a Committee to direct and ſuperintend the Buildings, to give Orders for raiſing and paying of Money, and they are to cauſe their Proceedings and Accounts to be regularly entered in Books to be kept for that Purpoſe.

If any Director dies, the Guardians may fill up the Vacancy upon proper Notice to be given for that Purpoſe.

The Guardians and Directors at all Meetings to bear their own Charges.

Any Officer who ſhall embezzle or miſapply any of the Money or Goods belonging to the Corporation, ſhall be diſcharged from his Office, forfeit Ten Pounds, and treble the Value of the Money or Goods ſo embezzled.

The Directors to contract for the Purchaſe of Buildings and a proper Quantity of Land for theſe Purpoſes, as near the Center of the

Diſtricts

Diſtricts as they conveniently can, and upon a Common or Waſte, if any lie contiguous, and the Conſent of the Lord of the Manor can be obtained.

Such Lands or Buildings never to be aſſeſſed at a higher Value or improved Rent than at the Time of ſuch Purchaſe.

The Value of ſuch Waſte or Common-Land to be ſettled by a Jury to be ſummoned out of the next adjacent Diſtrict; one Part of the Money at which the ſame ſhall be valued to be paid to the Lord of the Manor, and the Remainder to be applied in eaſe of the Poors Rates in the Pariſh or Place where ſuch Common lies, if the Occupiers of all the incloſed Lands in ſuch Pariſh or Place have Right of Common on ſuch Waſtes; if not, to be diſtributed to each Freeholder in proportion to his Right of Common; the Proportions to be ſettled by Three indifferent Perſons to be named by ſuch Jury, ſuch Common and Waſte-Land to be incloſed from the other Part of the Common or Waſte, as ſoon as conveniently may be after the Purchaſe-Money ſhall be paid, or duly tendered to the Perſons intitled to receive the ſame.

That the Directors ſhall cauſe to be built in Two Years after the paſſing the Act, upon the Lands ſo to be purchaſed, convenient plain Buildings, without Ornaments, of the cheapeſt and moſt durable Materials, of Dimenſions adapted, as near as conveniently

ently may be, to the Number of Poor within the Diſtrict; to be uſed for the following Purpoſes:

As a Hoſpital for the Reception and Maintenance of ſuch aged, ſick or infirm Perſons and young Children as are not able to work.

As a Work-houſe for the Reception, Maintenance and Employment of ſuch poor Perſons as are able to work.

And as a Houſe of Correction for the puniſhing and keeping to hard Labour ſuch poor, idle, vagrant and diſorderly Perſons, who being able, ſhall refuſe to Work, or otherwiſe miſbehave themſelves.

To be called, THE HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.

That the Directors do cauſe the Buildings to be furniſhed in a manner ſuitable to the Occaſion, and provide a convenient Stock of Hemp, Flax, Wool, Cotton, Thread, Iron, Stone, Wood, Leather, or other Materials, as they ſhall judge moſt proper, for the Employment of the Poor to be received there.

That the Money for ſuch Purchaſes, and for the erecting, furniſhing and ſtocking the Buildings, be borrowed by the Directors, and ſecured with Intereſt by Aſſignment of the Poors Rates within each Diſtrict.

The Aſſignment to be made by not leſs than Nine Directors under the common Seal of the Corporation, in a ſhort Form to be inſerted in the Act, without Stamps; the Expences of each Aſſignment not to exceed Two

Two Shillings and Sixpence, and to be paid out of the Money borrowed.

These Assignments to be transferred by Indorsement signed by the Party intitled to the Money.

Every Assignment and Transfer to be entered by the Clerk.

That Interest of the Money so to be borrowed, the Principal when to be paid off, and the necessary Expence of maintaining and employing the Poor, and carrying all the Purposes of the Act into Execution, to be levied and collected by the Poors Rates in each Parish, Township and extraparochial Place within the District, in proportion to the Sum which each Parish, Township or Place, has paid upon a Medium of the Four preceding Years, for or upon account of their Poor.

OBSERVATION.

This Proportion will be easily found, and it appears just and reasonable, that each Parish, Township and Place, should contribute to this Expence, in proportion to their present Burden; if it produces the salutary Relief expected, they will have the Benefit of it in the same Proportion.

That in order to ascertain what Sums have been expended, the Justices of Peace in every Hundred or Division, wherein such Parish, Township or Place shall lie, be authorized

to

to enquire into the ſame, upon Oath, and ſuch Juſtices to ſettle the Proportion to be levied and paid by each Pariſh, Townſhip or Place, to any certain Sum to be raiſed for the Uſe of ſuch Diſtrict, within Three Months after the paſſing of the Act.

If any Pariſh, Townſhip or Place, ſhall think themſelves aggrieved by ſuch Determination of the Juſtices, they may appeal to the next General Quarter-Seſſions for that County, whoſe Determination ſhall be final.

That no Aſſeſſment to any Sum for the Purpoſes of this Act, ſhall within either of the firſt Two Years, exceed one Fourth Part of the Sums ſo Annually paid upon a Medium in ſuch preceding Years.

OBSERVATION.

During the firſt Two Years, each Pariſh and Place will be liable to maintain its own Poor, under the preſent Laws, but it may be neceſſary to raiſe the Intereſt of the Money to be borrowed, and it is apprehended, that will not exceed a Fourth of the Annual Sum uſually raiſed; in the ſubſequent Years it is expected the Savings by theſe Regulations will be more than the Intereſt of ſuch Money, ſo that the Inhabitants in theſe Diſtricts will have a great Proſpect of ſeeing their Poors Levies decreaſed, and an Aſſurance from ſuch a Clauſe in the Act, that they cannot be advanced. This Clauſe has been in-

introduced into ſome of the Acts for Uniting Hundreds, and found agreeable to the Inhabitants there, and to be attended with no Inconvenience.

That Payments uſually made out of the Poors Rates, for County Rates and other Purpoſes not applicable to the Poor, ſhall for the future, be levied and collected by a ſeparate Aſſeſſment.

The Poor of each Pariſh, Townſhip and Place to continue under the Care and Government of the Churchwardens and Overſeers, according to the preſent Laws, until ſuch Buildings ſhall be erected, furniſhed, and ſtocked, and then to be conveyed by the reſpective Churchwardens and Overſeers into the Buildings ſo to be provided for them.

As ſoon as the Buildings ſhall be compleated, and fitted up, a general Meeting of the Guardians ſhall be called, and a new Liſt of Directors elected by Ballot, out of the Guardians, as before, but to contain double the Number of thoſe firſt elected, and to have Two or more elected out of each Pariſh, if ſo many are to be there found.

Thoſe Directors to meet Quarterly, and to be impowered to make Rules and Orders for the governing and employing the Poor, and to fill up Vacancies of Directors, or Officers, and to examine the Accounts at ſuch

Quarterly Meetings, but the Accounts to be paſſed and ſigned by the Directors annually.

A Number of ſuch Directors, not leſs than Fifteen, to be appointed at each Quarterly Meeting, ſhall, by agreement amongſt themſelves, be divided into Committees, conſiſting of a proper Number, and to meet Weekly at the Hoſpital, in order to inſpect and examine the Proceedings there, and to enforce the Rules, Orders, and Regulations, ſo to be made for the Government thereof.

At ſuch Quarterly Meetings, the Directors, with the Concurrence of a Juſtice of Peace, to aſcertain the Sum neceſſary to be raiſed upon each Pariſh, Townſhip or Place, within their Diſtrict, for the ſucceeding Quarter, and to iſſue their Warrants, under Seal of the Corporation, to the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of every ſuch Pariſh, Townſhip or Place, requiring ſuch Sum to be paid to the Treaſurer for ſuch Diſtrict, the ſame to be raiſed by Taxation in the like Manner as the Poors Rates are now levied.

The Directors to make an Allowance to ſome neighbouring Clergyman of the Church of *England*, for viſiting the Sick, inſtructing the Perſons in ſuch Houſes in the Principles of the Chriſtian Religion, and performing other Offices of his Function there; and alſo to ſome Apothecary to attend the Sick.

Poor Perſons refuſing to Work in ſuch Houſes, or being guilty of any immoral, indecent,

indecent, or diſorderly Behaviour, to be puniſhed by Correction, abatement of Diet, diſtinction in Dreſs, or Diet, or by being ſet in the Stocks, as the weekly Committee of Directors ſhall think fit, and as the Nature of the Caſe and Age of the Perſon ſhall require.

Profits from the Labour of the Poor to be applied in aid of the Aſſeſſments within each Diſtrict, but the Directors to have Power to encourage the moſt induſtrious Poor; and alſo the Governor, or Matron, by Gratuities out of thoſe Profits, if they think they deſerve it.

Poor Children of tender Age to be nurſed in the Hoſpital, or by proper Perſons in the Neighbourhood, as the Directors ſhall find moſt convenient.

As ſoon as they ſhall be able to Work, to be employed in the Work-houſe, in Buſineſs ſuitable for them, and when of proper Age, to be bound Apprentice, with the Conſent of a Juſtice of Peace, to the Sea-ſervice, or in Trade, or hired to Service in any Family, or diſmiſſed to their Parents or Friends, as the Directors at a Quarterly Meeting ſhall think moſt proper. But no ſuch male Child to be bound longer than until his Age of Twenty-one, nor any female Child, longer than until her Age of Eighteen.

Any Poor Perſon within the Hoſpital, may be hired out to the neighbouring Farmers in Harveſt-time, at ſuch Wages as ſhall be

agreed upon, between the Directors and ſuch Farmers.

That where County-Hoſpitals are already provided, poor Perſons upon all dangerous Accidents, or Occaſions, which require the Aſſiſtance of a Surgeon or Phyſician, to be ſent thither, from each Diſtrict, and the Treaſurer of the Diſtrict, to pay to the Treaſurer of ſuch Hoſpital a weekly Sum, to be ſpecified in the Act, for the time each Patient ſhall ſtay there.

In Counties where there are no ſuch Hoſpitals, to have an additional Building for thoſe Purpoſes, in the Hoſpital, in that Diſtrict which lies neareſt the Center of the County, and can have the beſt Aſſiſtance of Phyſicians or Surgeons, and a Contribution from each other Diſtrict for ſuch additional Building, in the Proportions they have ſo paid on a Medium of Four Years, as before mentioned, beſides ſuch weekly Pay to ſuch Patient.

A Horſe-Litter, or proper Vehicle to be kept at the Hoſpital of every Diſtrict, for conveying theſe Objects in the ſafeſt and eaſieſt way to ſuch County-Hoſpital.

OBSERVATION.

By ſome Proviſion of this kind, a conſiderable Expence will be ſaved in the Hoſpitals of the Diſtrict, the poor unhappy Objects will have

have the beſt Care and Aſſiſtance that can be procured for them, and Phyſicians and Surgeons of Character and Experience will ſoon be had in every County, which will be a great Happineſs to the Rich as well as the Poor.

That convenient Places be provided in different Parts of this Kingdom for the Reception of Ideots and Lunaticks, at one of ſuch County Hoſpitals which ſhall be neareſt the Center of ſeven or eight adjacent Counties, and that each Diſtrict in ſuch Counties ſhall contribute to the Expence of erecting ſuch Buildings, in the Proportions above, and ſhall alſo allow a weekly Sum, as above, for each Patient, to be ſent from every ſuch Diſtrict.

OBSERVATION.

Some Proviſion for this Purpoſe ſeems neceſſary, when we conſider the Number of unhappy Objects of this ſort which are permitted to expoſe themſelves in the publick Streets and Highways in many Parts of the Kingdom, to the Diſgrace of our Laws, and of Human Nature itſelf, or confined and concealed in Places called private Madhouſes, frequently from very bad Motives.

That the Overſeers of the Poor by the Advice and Order of the Directors at their Weekly Committee, and not otherwiſe, may allow ſome Occaſional Relief to any poor Houſholder,

Houſholder, who by Sickneſs or other unavoidable Accident ſhall be reduced to Diſtreſs, and be thought improper to be removed to the Hoſpital.

The Corporation to be enabled to take all Benefactions and Voluntary Contributions, which may be given for the Encouragement of this Charity, and to apply the ſame in the firſt Place to defray the Expences of the Purchaſe-Money, Buildings and Furniture, and afterwards to anſwer the further Purpoſes of the Act.

OBSERVATION.

If ſome Scheme of this ſort can be carried into Execution, it will rejoice every good Heart to ſee the Poor ſo much regarded and ſo well provided for, and cannot fail exciting many charitable Donations, as there never was a Time when the Inclinations of thoſe who have the Ability to give, were more diſpoſed to compaſſionate and relieve the Diſtreſſes of their Fellow Creatures than the preſent, if they could have any well grounded Aſſurance that their Benefactions would be ſo applied; but the notorious Abuſe of many Charities diſcourages every ſuch good Intention.

It ſeems very worthy the Attention of the Legiſlature, to have all the publick Charities enquired into, and perhaps many which have been given for the Relief of the Poor, and miſ-

applied,

applied, may when directed to the Objects for which they were appointed, tend to facilitate this Scheme, but that may be more properly the Subject of another Act of Parliament.

To have all the Laws relating to the Settlements, Relief, and Removal of Paupers; to Certificates of the Places of their Settlement; to the putting out of Pariſh Apprentices; to Baſtard Children, or their reputed Parents; to the apprehending, puniſhing and removing of Rogues, Vagabonds and Beggars; to the paſſing and removing of Vagrants, *repealed* at the end of two Years after paſſing the intended Act, in reſpect of all ſuch Diſtricts as ſhall then have erected, furniſhed and ſtocked the Houſes purſuant to the Directions of this Act; ſo far as the ſame concern any Pariſhes, Townſhips or Places within ſuch Diſtrict; or within any other Diſtrict which ſhall have complied with the Requiſites of the Act; and with reſpect to all or any other Diſtrict or Diſtricts, in the ſame manner, from the time they ſhall have complied with the Act.

OBSERVATION.

This Scheme is calculated for the whole Kingdom, and it is hoped by the Means hereafter mentioned, it may be univerſally executed, and afford general Satisfaction; but if it ſhould happen that any Diſtrict ſhould not have its Buildings

ings finiſhed in the Time, it may be thought proper to let the Pariſhes and Places in ſuch Diſtrict, act under the preſent Laws, till Parliament ſhall think fit to take their particular Caſe into Conſideration.

The Subſtance of the Laws relating to the Appointment of Overſeers, to the making Aſſeſſments, levying of the Poors Rates, to the Puniſhment of Overſeers for Miſbehaviour, and to the Method of their Accounting; to the obliging Parents and Children, when of Ability, to maintain each other; to the making the Property of Huſbands who ſhall run away from their Wives and Families liable to be diſpoſed of for their Maintenance, to the Puniſhment of the reputed Fathers and Mothers of Baſtard Children, and to the compelling them to contribute to their Relief and Maintenance; to be enumerated and enforced with ſuch Amendments as ſhall be thought expedient in this intended Act.

That after the Houſes ſhall be ſo provided, ſtocked and furniſhed, and the Poor removed thither, purſuant to the Directions of the Act, no Perſon be permitted to beg or aſk Alms, and Perſons relieving them to be liable to a Penalty.

All poor Perſons aſking or wanting Relief, and all Baſtards or other poor Children wanting Relief, to go, or be taken by any Perſon to the Overſeer of the Poor of the Pariſh,

Town-

Townſhip or Place, where they ſhall then be, who ſhall convey them to the Houſe for that Diſtrict, there to be relieved if Sick, or unable to Work, and employed if able to Work, till the weekly Meeting of the Committee, who ſhall examine and continue them in the Hoſpital, Work-houſe or Houſe of Correction, as they think proper, or relieve them and ſend them forward on their lawful Occaſions, with a Teſtimonial as hereafter mentioned.

That the Conſtables be directed to make frequent privy Searches by Warrants from Juſtices of Peace, for all Rogues, Vagabonds, ſturdy Beggars, and diſorderly Perſons, to take them before a Juſtice of Peace, or to the weekly Committee of Directors for the Diſtrict, to be examined, and diſmiſſed, employed, or puniſhed, as ſhall be found neceſſary.

If any Perſon ſo examined and detained ſhall be ſuſpected of having committed any Felony, Robbery, or other Miſdemeanor, he may be advertiſed in the moſt publick Paper of that Country, with a Deſcription of his Perſon and where to be ſeen.

If any able bodied Perſon who ſhall be ordered to hard Labour ſhall refuſe to work, or miſbehave himſelf, he ſhall be corrected by Whipping or otherwiſe, and after continuing for a certain Time in ſuch State of Diſobedience, to be committed to the County Goal, there to lie till the next Aſſize

or General Quarter-Seſſions, and then to be indicted and tried for that Offence, and if convicted, to be tranſported to ſome of his Majeſty's Colonies or Plantations.

As the beſt Means of diſcovering the Condition and Circumſtances of the Perſons ſo to be apprehended, the Act may direct that Perſons deſirous to Travel for Trade, Harveſt-work, or on any other lawful Occaſion, may have Letters-Teſtimonial from any Juſtice of Peace, or Director within each Diſtrict, ſpecifying the Name of the Perſon, his Occupation, Place of Abode, Time when given, Place or Places to which he is going, and on what Occaſion, and when apprehended it may appear from this, whether he is purſuing his Journey and Buſineſs or not, and when thought proper to be diſmiſſed from the Houſe in ſuch Diſtrict, he may receive a new Teſtimonial from the Directors, expreſſing the Time and Occaſion of his being detained there if thought proper.

To prevent the counterfeiting theſe Teſtimonials, the Act may direct a particular Seal to be put upon them, naming the Diſtrict in which they are given, with ſome Mark or Device upon it, that may be thought moſt effectual for that Purpoſe.

If Directors refuſe to hold Quarterly Meetings, or to make the neceſſary Rates for the Purpoſes of this Act, to be liable to a Penalty, and Two Juſtices of Peace in ſuch Caſes,

to

to make Rates, and ſettle the Proportions to be raiſed by each Pariſh, Townſhip or Place, purſuant to the Directions of the Act.

Directors refuſing to act, when choſe, or refuſing to attend the weekly Committees, to be alſo liable to a Penalty.

All Penalties inflicted by the Act, to be paid to the Treaſurer of the Diſtrict, and applied as Part of the Fund, for the Purpoſes of the Act.

The Corporation in each Diſtrict to be at Liberty to ſet up, uſe and carry on any Trade, Miſtery or Occupation, for the ſetting on Work and better Relief of the Poor within ſuch Diſtrict.

An Account from each Diſtrict to be laid before Parliament every Year, ſtating the Annual Expence, particularly diſtinguiſhing what paid to Officers, what for Maintenance, Cloathing, and Stock bought in, alſo ſpecifying the Number of Poor of each Claſs and Denomination, the Money gained by Labour, collected by Levies, and received from Charitable Donations.

OBSERVATION.

This will enable Parliament to attend the Progreſs of this Great Work, and to give it ſuch further Aſſiſtance from Time to Time, as ſhall be found neceſſary, till it can be brought to the higheſt Perfection.

Some Annual Reward to that Diſtrict which ſhall appear moſt Deſerving of it, may excite a laudable Emulation amongſt them.

As an Inducement to the ſeveral Diſtricts to compleat their Buildings and make them fit for the Reception of the Poor within the Two Years:

The Act may direct a Sum of Money to be raiſed by Lotteries within the Two Years, or in ſuch other manner as ſhall be thought more proper, and diſtributed at the end of the Two Years amongſt ſuch Diſtricts as ſhall within that time have finiſhed, compleated, ſtocked and furniſhed the neceſſary Buildings directed by the Act, in the Proportions which each Diſtrict hath paid for their Poor on a Medium in the laſt Four Years; the Accounts of the medium Sums to be tranſmitted by the Juſtices to the Treaſury, when they have ſettled them; this Money to be applied by the Treaſurer of each Diſtrict in diſcharging ſo much of the Money borrowed for purchaſing the Lands and erecting the Buildings.

As a further Inducement for every Diſtrict to comply with the Act, it may direct that a Sum of Money, not exceeding what they have annually collected for the Uſe or on account of their Poor upon a Medium for the laſt Four Years, be raiſed and paid by ſuch Diſtricts as ſhall refuſe to comply, into the

the Hands of the Treaſurer of each County, and diſtributed in the Proportions before-mentioned, to ſuch Diſtricts as ſhall have complied with the Act.

OBSERVATION.

The Convenience and Utility of a Scheme of this ſort to the Poor and to thoſe who at preſent maintain them may appear very evident, but as it is a Matter of the higheſt Importance it will require the utmoſt Exertion of the Legiſlative Authority of this Kingdom, both by its Rewards and Puniſhments, to carry it into Execution; and therefore the Two laſt Propoſitions are more particularly *ſubmitted to their Conſideration.*

That ſuch Hundreds or Diſtricts as are already incorporated or united under Acts of Parliament for the Relief and Employment of their Poor ſhall continue to have the Benefit of thoſe Acts, and in all other reſpects be ſubject to the new intended Law, and to have their Proportions of the Government Money, and that ariſing from Diſtricts which may refuſe to comply with this intended Act.

If there ſhall be any Pariſh or Place which hath no Poors Levy, but may be likely to produce Poor to the Diſtrict wherein it lies, a reaſonable Proportion to be ſettled by the Juſtices,

Juſtices, for their Contribution to the Expences of that Diſtrict.

OBSERVATIONS

Concerning ſome preparatory Steps which appear neceſſary for the Conſideration of this Scheme the next Seſſions of Parliament.

To have Plans of every County in *England* and *Wales*, deſcribing every Pariſh and Townſhip which maintains its own Poor, and alſo every extraparochial Place.

An accurate Survey by Admeaſurement would be too tedious and expenſive, but if done by occular Survey and deſcribed in a Map by a Scale of a Mile in an Inch, as near as it can be conveniently done, ſuch Maps might ſoon be procured at a moderate Expence.

If in large Counties a Perſon was to be employed in each Hundred, and afterwards all the Hundreds to be united by one Hand, it would facilitate the Buſineſs.

Every Perſon employed in this Work might at the ſame time collect from the Pariſh Officers an Account of the Number of Poor, and of the Money paid for their Uſe, within every Pariſh, Townſhip or Place in each of the Four laſt Years, and alſo an Account as near as conveniently can be had, of the whole Number of Inhabitants in every ſuch Pariſh,

Pariſh, Townſhip or Place, which would enable the Legiſlature to divide the Counties into the moſt proper and convenient Diſtricts, as many Parts are very populous, and others but little inhabited.

It is apprehended the Juſtices of Peace in each Hundred, and the ſeveral Pariſh Officers, will be very ready to give their Aſſiſtance for that Purpoſe, if it was recommended to them by his Majeſty, or either Houſe of Parliament.

If the Expence of taking ſuch Survey, *&c.* was at firſt to be paid out of the Publick Revenue, it might be directed by the intended Act, to be repaid by the Treaſurer of each County out of the County Rates.

Parish, Township or Place, which would enable the Legislature to divide the Counties into the most proper and convenient Districts, as many Parts are very populous, and others but little inhabited.

It is apprehended the Justices of Peace in each Hundred, and the several Parish Officers, will be very ready to give their Assistance in the Execution of it, if it was recommended to them by Authority, or either Houle of Parliament.

If the Expence of such Survey, was thought too great to be defrayed out of the Public Revenue, it might be raised by the intended Act, to be repaid by the Treasurer of each County out of the County Rates.